

Application Number 10/629,237
Response to Office Action Mailed June 6, 2007

Remarks

I. Rejections under 35 USC§112

At page 2 of the Office Action, claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC§112 for indefiniteness. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 16 to more clearly state the subject matter that the Applicant regards as his invention.

Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

II. Rejections under 35 USC§102

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-14, 17-26, 28-38, and 40 are rejected under 35 USC§102(a) as being anticipated by Twede (US published patent application number 20030103232, hereinafter referred to as "Twede"). However, Twede does not disclose all of the limitations of the Applicants claimed invention.

In Twede, the generation and usage of workflows for processing data on a printing device is disclosed. Twede includes an exemplary display (170) in which workflows can be generated by dragging icons from a "Toolkit" area to a "Workspace" area.

However, Twede makes no mention of a method of automating a workflow that includes "the multifunction peripheral accepting, by way of a user input, a modification to the workflow, wherein the accepting includes scanning a document via a scanner, the document having instruction printed thereon", as recited in amended independent claim 1. Nor does Twede disclose a system for automating tasks of a workflow in which a "plurality of the multifunction peripherals accepts inputs that modify the workflow by way of a scanner that scans a document having instructions printed thereon", as recited in amended independent claim 17. Nor does Twede disclose a method for use within a multifunction peripheral that includes "accepting a modification to the workflow via the user interface, wherein the accepting includes scanning a document via a scanner, the document having instructions printed thereon", as recited in amended independent claim 29. Nor does Twede disclose a system for automating a workflow that includes "means for

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accepting from the user a change to the order of the tasks performed by the multifunction peripheral, wherein the accepting includes scanning a document via a scanner, the document having instructions printed thereon", as recited in amended independent claim 36.

Accordingly, as Twede does not disclose all of the limitations of the Applicants claimed invention, the Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to the claims under 35 USC § 102.

III. Rejections under 35 USC§103

At page 8 of the Office Action, claims 15-16, 27, and 29 are rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Twede (as previously mentioned herein) in view of Smirnov (US patent number 6,546,364, hereinafter referred to as "Smirnov"). However, neither Twede nor Smirnov, when considered either individually or in combination therewith, disclose all of the limitations of the Applicant's claims.

As mentioned previously, Twede teaches the generation and the usage of workflows for processing data on a printing device. However, Twede does not include any disclosure of an "accepting" step in which a document is scanned via a scanner, with the document having workflow instructions printed thereon, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 17, 29, and 36 (actual claim language may vary slightly).

In Smirnov, a method and apparatus for creating adaptive workflows is disclosed. However, Smirnov is silent on the particular manner in which the user conveys workflow instructions to the system. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion at page 8 of the Office Action, *Smirnov does not include any teaching of using a "printed list" or any other type of document that might be scanned in order to convey workflow instructions.* The Examiner indicates that at column 2, lines 20-32 of Smirnov, the user inputs a "printed list" to the multifunction peripheral. Smirnov includes no such teaching. If the Applicant has missed this teaching in Smirnov, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to point to the precise location within Smirnov where this teaching can be found. In the event that the Examiner cannot point to the particular location within Smirnov where a document having instructions

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printed thereon is scanned, as recited in amended independent claim 1, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection.

Similarly, if the Examiner cannot point to the precise location within Smirnov where a "multifunction peripheral accepts inputs that modify the workflow by way of a scanner that scans a document having instructions printed thereon", as recited in amended independent claim 17, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection.

Similarly, if the Examiner cannot point to the precise location within Smirnov where a method that includes "accepting a modification to the workflow via the user interface, wherein the accepting includes scanning a document via a scanner, the document having instructions printed thereon", as recited in amended independent claim 29, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection.

Similarly, if the Examiner cannot point to the precise location within Smirnov where a system for automating a workflow that includes "means for accepting from the user a change to the order of the tasks performed by the multifunction peripheral, wherein the accepting includes scanning a document via a scanner, the document having instructions printed thereon", as recited in amended independent claim 36, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection.

Accordingly, as neither Twede nor Smirnov, when considered either individually or in combination therewith, disclose all the limitations of the Applicant's claims, the Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 USC§103(a) and pass this application onto allowance.

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IV. Additional Fees

It is not believed that additional fees are due at this time; however, if any additional fee is required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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